



UNITED COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, INC.

Received & Inspected

NOV 21 2011

FCC Mail Room

November 9, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket Nos. 20-60; HCP Number 27695; United Community Health Center at Sahuarita Heights Clinic,
2875 E. Sahuarita Road, Sahuarita, AZ 85629

To Whom this May Concern:

In response to the denial I received (via email) from Anna Luna on October 31, 2011, I am appealing said decision. Sahuarita is a small town approximately 20 miles south of Tucson, with a population of 20,000. Sahuarita Heights is a sub-area approximately 5 miles east of Sahuarita's town center and is home to many medically uninsured/underinsured patients. The area is sparsely dotted by manufactured homes which are occupied by socially deprived families. The clinic additionally serves the workers of the local pecan farm located approximately 3.5 miles west of the clinic.

Areas, such as Sahuarita Heights, tend to be the last ones to receive infrastructure upgrades by the local telecommunication companies due to sparse population and low profitability. Within the past couple of months we experienced a major problem due to infrastructural issues in regards to the T-1 line. This disrupted our clinical operations and ability to access and use our electronic medical records systems without numerous long interruptions daily for several weeks. During this time we ended up using wireless access cards as a stop gap, but due to bandwidth limitations and the amount of data being transferred, this proved to be a temporary solution at best.

United Community Health Center requests that the FCC reconsiders the subject clinic and area to qualify for Rural status so that it may meet the requirements to participate in the Rural Health Care Division Program.

Sincerely,

Dianna Gonzales
Chief Executive Officer

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